

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bruno Polito on February 22, 2010. The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS – Please replace the claim set with the following claim set:

“1. A digital camera, comprising:

determining means for determining whether an image file stored on the camera was captured by the camera or was obtained from a source external to the camera;

classifying means for classifying the image file according to information concerning the date of capture of the image file in the case that the determining means determines that the image file was captured by the camera, and for classifying the image file according to information concerning the date the image file was obtained in the case that the determining means determines that the image file was obtained from a source external to the camera; and

display control means for controlling a display unit to display a result of classification performed by the classifying means,

whereby an image file obtained from a source external to the camera is classified according to the date the image file was obtained, even though the camera receives an indication of when the image file was captured,

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the camera defines, for each image file stored in the camera, an original recorded file flag, a photographing date and time, and a correction date and time, the original recorded file flag indicating whether the image file was captured by the camera or was obtained from a source external to the camera, the photographing date and time being used to indicate a photographing date and time for the image file in the case that the image file is an image file captured by the camera, and the correction date and time being used to indicate a date and time of correction for the image file in the case that the image file is captured by the camera and corrected, and being used to indicate a date and time of obtainment for the image file in the case that the image file is obtained from a source external to the camera,

the display control means displays a result of classification with a distinction between image files captured by the camera and image files obtained from a source external to the camera.

2. The digital camera as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the display control means divides a predetermined display screen of the display unit into a plurality of areas, assigns a date to each of the areas, and displays, as the result of the classification, the presence of an image file in the area having a date corresponding to the information on the date of capture of the image file or the information on the date of obtainment of the image file.

3. The digital camera as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the display control means displays the information on the date of capture of the image file or the information on the date of obtainment of the image file on a predetermined display screen of the display unit.

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4. The digital camera as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, further comprising instructing means for giving an instruction to display a list of image files classified as the result of the classification on the predetermined display screen of the display unit,

wherein according to the instruction given by the instructing means, the display control means displays the image files classified by the classifying means on the display screen such that the image file classified according to the information on the date of capture is distinguished from the image file classified according to the information on the date of obtainment.

5. The digital camera as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the display control means scrolls the predetermined display screen of the display unit to display the result of the classification.

6. The digital camera as claimed in claim 5, wherein the display control means changes a speed at which the predetermined display screen of the display unit is scrolled according to a quantity of image files classified as the result of the classification.

7. The digital camera as claimed in claim 6, wherein when changing the speed at which the predetermined display screen of the display unit is scrolled, the display control means considers a scroll amount required to display the result of the classification to be displayed by scrolling at a predetermined position on the display screen.

8. (canceled)

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9. An image file processing method, comprising the steps of:
 - determining whether an image file stored on a camera was captured by the camera or was obtained from a source external to the camera;
 - classifying the image file according to information concerning the date of capture of the image file in the case that it is determined that the image file was captured by the camera, and for classifying the image file according to information concerning the date the image file was obtained in the case that it is determined that the image file was obtained from a source external to the camera; and
 - displaying on a display unit a result of the step of classifying,
 - whereby an image file obtained from a source external to the camera is classified according to the date the image file was obtained, even though the camera receives an indication of when the image file was captured,
 - the camera defines, for each image file stored in the camera, an original recorded file flag, a photographing date and time, and a correction dated and time, the original recorded file flag indicating whether the image file was captured by the camera or was obtained from a source external to the camera, the photographing date and time being used to indicate a photographing date and time for the image file in the case that the image file is an image file captured by the camera, and the correction date and time being used to indicate a date and time of correction for the image file in the case that the image file is captured by the camera and corrected, and being used to indicate a date and time of obtainment for the image file in the case that the image file is obtained from a source external to the camera,
 - the step of displaying includes displaying a result of classification with a

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distinction between image files captured by the camera and image files obtained from a source external to the camera.

10. The image file processing method as claimed in claim 9, wherein
the displaying step includes dividing a predetermined display screen of the display unit into a plurality of areas, assigning a date to each of the areas, and displaying, as the result of the classification, the presence of an image file in the area having a date corresponding to the information on the date of capture of the image file or the information on the date of obtainment of the image file.

11. The image file processing method as claimed in claim 9, wherein
the displaying step includes displaying the information on the date of capture of the image file or the information on the date of obtainment of the image file on a predetermined display screen of the display unit.

12. The image file processing method as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, further comprising giving an instruction to display a list of image files classified as the result of the classification on the predetermined display screen of the display unit,
wherein the displaying step includes, according to the instruction given in the instruction giving step, displaying the image files classified in the classifying step on the display screen such that the image file classified according to the information on the date of capture is distinguished from the image file classified according to the information on the date of obtainment.

13. The image file processing method as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, wherein
the displaying step includes scrolling the predetermined display screen of the

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display unit to display the result of the classification.

14. The image file processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein
the displaying step includes changing a speed at which the predetermined display screen of the display unit is scrolled according to a quantity of image files classified as the result of the classification.

15. The image file processing method as claimed in claim 14, wherein
the displaying step includes, when changing the speed at which the predetermined display screen of the display unit is scrolled, considering a scroll amount required to display the result of the classification to be displayed by scrolling at a predetermined position on the display screen.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)”

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1 – 7 and 9 and 15 (now respectively renumbered 1 – 14)** are allowed. The following is an Examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art at least discloses a technique for organizing and displaying digital photographs based on time. The technique includes inputting data representing a photograph and storing the data as a photograph image file. The technique then identifies the manner in which the photograph image file stores time information (such as date and time of day). For instance, the technique determines whether the time information is digitally encoded in the image file, or

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whether it is embedded within the image data itself. The technique next includes extracting the time information from the photograph image file using a technique appropriate to the identified manner in which the time information is stored, to produce extracted time information. The photographs are then inserted into a time sequence based on the extracted time information, and presented on a calendar display at a location representative of the chronological placement of the photograph within the time sequence.

However, the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a digital camera that includes classifying means for classifying the image file according to information concerning the date of capture of the image file in a case that it is determined that the image file was captured by the camera, and for classifying the image file according to information concerning the date the image file was obtained in a case that it is determined that the image file was obtained from a source external to the camera; and where the camera defines, for each image file stored in the camera, an original recorded file flag, a photographing date and time, and a correction date and time, the original recorded file flag indicating whether the image file was captured by the camera or was obtained from a source external to the camera, the photographing date and time being used to indicate a photographing date and time for the image file in the case that the image file is an image file captured by the camera, and the correction date and time being used to indicate a date and time of correction for the image file in the case that the image file is captured by the camera and corrected, and being used to indicate a date and time of obtainment for the image file in the case that the image file is obtained from a source external to the camera.

4. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P. Misleh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7313. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday between 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/Justin P. Misleh/
Primary Examiner, Group Art Unit 2622
February 25, 2010**